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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 /144 W
---------- 000615
R 031120Z OCT 73
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7580
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK
SUBJECT: BHUTTO'S KARACHI VISIT: GESTURE TO BANGLADESH
AND DEPARTING BENGALEES

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN 24-HOUR VISIT TO KARACHI OCTOBER 2-3, PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO ADDRESSED LARGE CROWD AT AIRPORT AND MADE TRIUMPHAL TOUR THROUGH CITY. AIRPORT SPEECH CONTAINED GESTURES TO BANGLADESH AND TO BENGALEES BEING REPATRIATED FROM PAKISTAN, ALSO COVERED FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESS IN WAKE U.S. VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN FIRST VISIT TO KARACHI SINCE U.S. VISIT, BHUTTO WELCOMED BY WHAT PRESS DESCRIBED AS "MAMMOTH" AND "RECORD" CROWDS BOTH AT AIRPORT ON MORNING 2 OCTOBER AND ALONG 13-MILE ROUTE THROUGH CITY TO PRIME MINISTER'S CLIFTON RESIDENCE. PRIME MINISTER MADE 27-MINUTE AIRPORT SPEECH IN URDQQM HE LEFT MORNING OCTOBER 3 FOR LARKANA. NO RPT NO PRESS ACCOUNTS OF ANY ACTIVITIES AFTERNOON 2 OCTOBER. FOLLOWING ACCOUNT AIRPORT SPEECH GLEANED FROM VARYING VERSIONS OCTOBER 3 KARACHI ENGLISH
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2. GESTURE TOWARD BANGLADESH AND BENGALEES: BHUTTO EXPRESSED GREAT SYMPATHY FOR CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND SHORTAGES BANGLADESH AND RENEWED EARLIER OFFER TO SEND RICE AND CLOTH TO ALLEVIATE SHORTAGES, ADDING "WE DON'T WANT OUR BENGALEE BRETHREN TO LOOK UP TO CALCUTTA FOR MEETING THEIR ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS." HE REFUTED ALLEGATIONS THAT EAST PAKISTAN HAD BEEN EXPLOITED BY WEST PAKISTAN, URGING BENGALEES TO COMPARE THEIR LOT DURING PAST TWO YEARS WITH PROGRESS OF PRECEDING QUARTER CENTURY. HE SAID NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AUTHORITY TO RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH WAS A "SACRED TRUST," THAT PAKISTAN WOULD RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH BUT NOT UNDER PRESSURE FROM ANY SOURCE. TO BENGALEES LEAVING FOR REPATRIATION TO BANGLADESH, BHUTTO APPEALED FOR A "FORGET AND FORGIVE" APPROACH TO MISUNDER-STANDINGS OF PAST TWO YEARS. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED FORGIVENESS OF BENGALEES FOR ANY SUFFERING AND INCONVENIENCE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAUSED THEM IN PAKISTAN, SAYING IT WAS NOTIBOP POLICY TO PUT THEM IN CAMPS BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE BECAUSE DACCA ADMINISTRATION TOOK SIMILAR ACTION AGAINST PAKISTANI CIVILIANS THERE. IN EMOTIONAL FAREWELL TO DEPARTING BENGALEES, BHUTTO CALLED THEM "BROTHERS," SAID PARTING ONLY TEMPORARY AND THEY WOULD MEET AGAIN, IF NOT IN KARACHI OR LAHORE, THEN IN DACCA OR CHITTAGONG.

3. RETURNEES: BHUTTO REPEATED TRIBUTES TO RETURNING POW'S. WITH REGARD TO PAKISTANIS BEING REPATRIATED FROM BANGLADESH, HE WAS CAREFUL TO REASSURE KARACHI CITIZENRY THAT THESE RETURNEES WOULD BE SETTLED AND REHABILITATED IN ALL FOUR PROVINCES OF THE COUNTRY, NOT JUST IN KARACHI.

4. FOREIGN POLICY: BHUTTO CLAIMED COMPLETE SUCCESS FOR PAKISTAN'S POLICY TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL SUPER POWERS, SAYING PAKISTAN WAS FIRST COUNTRY TO EMBARK ON SUCH AN "EXPERIMENT." HE EXPRESSED FULL SATISFACTION ON OUTCOME WASHINGTON VISIT BY POINTING OUT THAT NO AGREEMENT REACHED IN WASHINGTON AT COST RELATIONS TO OTHER SUPER POWERS. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN TIMES WHEN, OWING TO STRAINED SINO-U.S. RELATIONS, U.S. HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD PAKISTAN'S CHINA POLICY, BUT THAT PAKISTAN'S "EXPERIMENT"
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PROVED SUCCESSFUL WHEN DETENTE WAS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN U.S. AND CHINA. BHUTTO ADDED THAT PAKISTAN'S POLICY WITH REGARD TO OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD, SPECIFICALLY MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, WAS UNCHANGED FOLLOWING U.S. VISIT. HE SINGLED OUT FOR COMMENT PAKISTAN'S GOOD RELATIONS WITH RCD COUNTRIES (IRAN AND TURKEY) AND PAKISTAN'S DISAPPROVAL OF MILITARY COUP IN CHILE.

5. IN APPRECIATIVE BUT JOCULAR REFERENCE TO LARGE CROWDS THAT HAD TURNED OUT IN SPITE OF HEAT AND RAMADAN FASTING,

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BHUTTO REFERRED TO 1964 INCIDENT IN SUKKUR WHEN AYUB KHAN DENIED REPORTS THAT TWO LAKH TURN-OUT HAD BEEN PURCHASED AT A RUPEE A HEAD, NOTING THAT GOVERNMENT COULD NOT AFFORD PAY TWO LAKH RUPEES. BHUTTO ADDED THAT BOTH HE AND AYUB LAUGHED, AYUB BECAUSE HE THOUGHT HE HAD SCORED A POINT, BHUTTO BECAUSE HE KNEW THE CROWD HAD IN FACT BEEN PURCHASED.

6. THERE WERE NO PRESS REPORTS OF PRIME MINISTER'S ACTIVITIES IN KARACHI AFTERNOON OF 2 OCTOBER. POSSIBILITY OF CONFERENCES ON BALUCHISTAN POLITICAL PROBLEM SUGGESTED BY PRESENCE IN KARACHI OF BALUCHISTAN GOVERNOR AKBAR BUGTI AND REPORTS IN KARACHI URDU PRESS THAT GOP AGRICULTURE MINISTER RAISANI HAD BEEN SUMMONED FROM QUETTA AND THAT NAP-MPA AHMAD NAWAZ BUGTI HAD ALSO COME TO KARACHI 2 OCTOBER.
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